

what some economists call, “the Great Recession.” We find ourselves at a crossroads where we must decide how to manage our fiscal priorities while still protecting those who were hardest hit by the recent recession. When considering H.R. 1947 we should not forget the underlying principal which defines the farm bill, which is to provide assistance to those most in need.

Our Nation looks on as the Republican majority in the House of Representatives attempts to justify having nearly two-thirds of the savings generated from the entire bill come from cutting \$20.5 billion in SNAP funding. While we are in a very difficult fiscal climate, we simply cannot continue to place further burden on our Nation’s most vulnerable citizens. In these tough budgetary times, we should not signal to our constituents that helping those most in need is no longer a priority.

President Eisenhower once said, “Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.” We must consider the short and long term consequences of these cuts on our children, the elderly and disabled. Madam Chair, I would like to remind my colleagues that 95% of SNAP funding goes directly to families to buy food. For many of these at-risk populations, SNAP is the sole form of income-assistance they receive and is a powerful anecdote to extreme poverty.

Madam Chair, I am disappointed that two amendments I offered, which would have made improvements to this bill were not considered. Although I have many concerns with this bill, I feel they would have made modest improvements. My first amendment would have provided language which would have enabled the reauthorization of USDA’s Hunger-Free Communities grant program. This program was created to provide public funding for comprehensive and collaborative efforts to end hunger at the community level. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized the grant program and \$5 million was appropriated for Fiscal Year 2010. 14 communities in eight states, including my State of Texas, were awarded 2-year grants ranging from \$63,000 to \$2,000,000.

My second amendment addressed the issue of broad-based categorical eligibility. My understanding is that if broad-based categorical eligibility is ended under H.R. 1947, all states will have to use the asset test. Current law states that “that a household otherwise eligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program will not be eligible to participate if its resources exceed \$2,000 or, in the case of a household which consists of or includes an elderly or disabled member, if its resources exceed \$3,000.” If that is the case I feel that the asset limit should be higher. My amendment would have increased the asset eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to \$5,000 for all households, including those households including elderly and disabled members.

Madam Chair, In conclusion, I simply cannot support a bill which cuts \$20.5 billion from our Nation’s most important anti-hunger program which touches nearly 1 out of 7 American’s.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MAJOR GENERAL DAVID F. WHERLEY, JR., DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD RETENTION AND COLLEGE ACCESS GRANT

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the four-year anniversary of the tragic June 22, 2009, Metro crash, in which Major General David F. Wherley, former Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard, his wife, Ann, and seven others were killed when Metro trains collided on the Red Line, I introduce a bill, the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Act (NGRCA), to permanently authorize funding for a program that provides grants for higher education to members of the D.C. National Guard. In 2010, I renamed this bill after General Wherley because he worked tirelessly with me to get funding for the program for many years, and because of his devotion to the youth of the District of Columbia.

The NGRCA authorizes an education incentive program, recommended by the late Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., and his successor, Major General Errol Schwartz, to stem the troublesome loss of members of the D.C. Guard to other units. Surrounding states offer such educational benefits to their Guards. I am grateful that the Appropriations committees have provided funds for the program in some years, most recently in fiscal year 2013. Naming a permanently authorized program after General Wherley would memorialize his service to the country and to the Guard in a way that I believe he would have appreciated. Authorizing funding is necessary to ensure that D.C. Guard members receive the same treatment and benefits as other National Guard members, especially those in states that provide the higher education benefits we seek for D.C. Guard members. The Guard for the nation’s capital has a limited ability to compete for regional residents, who find membership in the Maryland and Virginia Guards more beneficial. A competitive tuition assistance program for the D.C. Guard will provide significant incentives and leverage to help maintain enrollment and level the field of competition. The D.C. Guard is a federal instrument not under the control of the mayor of the District of Columbia. The federal government supports most other D.C. Guard functions and should support this small benefit as well.

The small education incentives in my bill would not only encourage high-quality recruits, but would have the important benefit of helping the D.C. Guard to maintain the force necessary to protect the federal presence, including members of Congress and the Supreme Court, and visitors if a terrorist attack or natural disaster should occur. I am pleased to introduce the bill based on the advice of Guard personnel, who best know what is necessary.

It is especially important for the D.C. Guard to be able to attract the best soldiers, given its unique mission to protect the federal presence here, in addition to D.C. residents. This responsibility distinguishes the D.C. Guard from all other National Guards. The D.C. Guard is specially trained to meet its unique mission.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA

### HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, June 20, 2013*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the centennial anniversary of Lake Worth, Florida, a diverse and vibrant city in my district. Since its incorporation on June 4th, 1913, Lake Worth has grown into a lively community of 36,000 people.

Currently under the leadership of Mayor Pam Triolo, Lake Worth is a world-class tourist destination. It boasts one of the longest municipal piers on Florida’s Atlantic Coast, a unique downtown, and over 1,000 historical buildings. Lake Worth is also home to the Palm Beach County Cultural Center, which has delighted art-lovers and patrons of all ages since its founding in 1978.

Founded by former slaves, Lake Worth is one of the most diverse cities in Florida. Today, it boasts over 50 different nationalities. Its rich cultural history continues to promote a sense of hard work, diversity, and inclusiveness.

In honor of Lake Worth’s centennial anniversary, I am proud to recognize this dynamic community for their past successes and wish them a bright and prosperous future.

### PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, June 18, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1797. This bill, which would implement a nationwide ban on abortions after 20 weeks, is in direct violation of *Roe v. Wade*. H.R. 1797 is the latest attempt by House Republicans to undermine a woman’s fundamental right to choose.

H.R. 1797 does not provide an exception to protect a woman’s health. This dangerous omission would deny a woman the right to an abortion even when her doctor determines it would be necessary to protect her health. This infringement into the relationship between a woman and her doctor is the reason this legislation is opposed by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Medical Women’s Association.

Additionally, H.R. 1797 contains a wholly inadequate exception for rape and incest. The threshold that the crime must have been reported to the authorities is arbitrary and cynical considering that it is estimated over half of the rapes in the United States go unreported.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this attack on a woman’s Constitutional right to choose.